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This Week in Congress

November 8, 2010

Dear Friend,

Welcome to "This Week in Congress." This week's headlines are:

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Hospitals Keep Kansas Communities Healthy

On Monday, I visited Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) to better understand how the hospital cares for patients in Northeast Kansas. LMH is a 173-bed, community-owned, not-for-profit hospital that was founded in 1921 and operates without tax support from the City of Lawrence or Douglas County. During my tour, I was interested to learn how LMH invests excess revenues in services, equipment and facilities that further its mission of improving the overall health of Lawrence and the surrounding community. In March of 2009, LMH completed a three-year expansion project that included new facilities for emergency and surgery and additional space for maternity, intensive care, and critical care. The hospital has been formally recognized by independent organizations for excellence and has received quality awards for clinical excellence and patient satisfaction. Thank you to Gene Meyer, LMH President & CEO, and Karen Shumate, Vice President of Clinical Services, for their hospitality during my visit. Thank you as well to Tom Bell, President of the Kansas Hospital Association, for joining us. Also, thanks to Gloria Pringle for coordinating my visit.

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Visiting with Kansas High School Students

Washburn Rural High School: I was in Topeka on Monday to visit with students, teachers, and staff at Washburn Rural High School. I enjoyed touring the school, visiting with students in WRHS' American Government, American History, and World History classes, and meeting with WRHS' administrators to discuss issues affecting their school and education policy for our state. Thank you to teachers Pat McCollim, Scott Schufelberger, Chris Whitson, Kevin Hedberg, and school counselor Kelly Grieves for allowing me to meet with their students to discuss the function of our government and some of the challenges facing our state and country. The average annual enrollment at WRHS is approximately 1,800 students and the school has met the Kansas State Standards of Excellence in Reading and Math multiple times in the last eight years. I commend the teachers and staff at WRHS for their commitment to educational excellence and appreciate the insight they shared with me. Thanks to USD 437 Superintendent Brenda Deitrich and WRHS Principal Ed Raines for their hospitality in arranging my visit.

[Click here](#)

to view a photo from my visit.



Olathe Northwest High School: I traveled to Olathe on Monday to visit Olathe Northwest High School and spoke with students in Pat Butler's Government and Advanced Placement Government classes. I always appreciate the opportunity to meet with Kansas high school students and hear their perspective. During my visit, I learned that Olathe Northwest has earned the Standard of Excellence ranking by the Kansas State Department of Education in all academic areas since 2003, when it first opened its doors. The competitiveness of our state and our nation is directly related to the quality of our children's education, so I thank the many faculty members and staff who are committed to the education of students across Kansas. Thanks to Pat Butler for letting me join his class and visit with his government students. Thanks to Dr. Gwen Poss, Olathe Northwest High School principal; Dr. Gary George, Assistant Superintendent of Quality Management Services; and Peggy Rohleder for setting up my tour of Olathe Public Schools' newest facility.

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Kansas Universities Prepare Next Generation of Leaders

While in Manhattan this week, I had the pleasure of visiting with President Schulz of K-State. We had a great discussion about the future of K-State, their plan to be a Top 50 research institution, and how we could work together to meet those goals. We also discussed the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF), its impact on the regional economy and its role in protecting our nation's food supply.

Also, over the past two weeks, President Schulz has announced two major donations worth \$6 million toward K-State's efforts to build a basketball practice facility and the renovation and maintenance of the K-State Welcome Center in Memorial Stadium. These generous gifts were given by Rand and Patti Berney of Phillipsburg and the Goldstein family of Manhattan, and signify how important Kansas State University continues to be in the lives of K-Staters everywhere. I congratulate President Schulz and thank both families for their generosity.

I appreciate President Schulz's leadership of K-State and his vision for the future. I enjoyed my time with him and I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of Kansas State, its faculty, students, and alumni. The success of our state's universities will improve the Kansas economy and help ensure a bright future for our current and future citizens.

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Kansas Veterans Visit Washington, D.C.

On Wednesday, a group of 36 veterans and 20 sponsors from southwest Kansas came to our nation's capital with Central Prairie Honor Flight. The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization that was created to thank and honor World War II veterans for their service. Many of these veterans are in their 80s and 90s and unable physically or financially to visit

Washington, D.C. to see the World War II Memorial that pays tribute to their service and sacrifice. Honor Flight helps make trips for these veterans possible. May we always remember the debts we owe them for their sacrifice in protecting our country and liberating the world. Special thanks to Mike VanCampen and to all the volunteers for putting together such a special day for these veterans. [Click here](#) to view photos of their visit. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Honor Flight Network.



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Civic Clubs Play Important Role in Kansas Communities

Civic clubs make a positive impact in communities across America by creating opportunities for their members to give back. The guiding motto of Rotary International is “Service Above Self”

and club members live that out by volunteering locally, regionally and internationally to serve others. This week, I attended Rotary Club meetings in Manhattan and Lawrence.

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Manhattan: On Thursday, I joined members of the Manhattan Rotary Club for their weekly meeting. As a member of the Hays Rotary Club, I always enjoy visiting with other Rotarians about the good work they are doing in their local communities. Whether in Ellis County or Riley County, Kansans share a common desire to improve their communities for the sake of the next generation. Participation in civic clubs makes this possible. Thanks to Nelson Galle for his hospitality.

Lawrence: I also attended the weekly Lawrence Rotary Club meeting this week. I enjoyed visiting with members and hearing from their guest speaker, Kansas State University President Kirk Schulz. Thanks to Keith Yehle for his hospitality during my visit. [Click here](#) to view a photo from my visit.

